<u>IN THE CLAIMS</u>

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ <u>A tangible</u> item delivery system in which a public switched telephone network is used to make connection between a sender's terminal apparatus of a sender ~~entrusting delivery of a delivery item to a delivery agency~~ and a recipient's terminal apparatus of a recipient <u>intended to receive</u> ~~receiving~~ the <u>tangible</u> ~~delivery~~ item <u>from the sender by way of a delivery agency,</u>

wherein the recipient's terminal apparatus ~~obtains~~ <u>is configured to obtain</u> a public key ~~of~~ <u>from</u> the delivery agency via a specified medium, ~~uses~~ <u>to use</u> the public key <u>so obtained</u> to encrypt recipient information <u>as recipient's encryption information</u> containing at least ~~recipient's~~ private information needed ~~for~~ <u>to enable</u> delivery of <u>tangible</u> items <u>to the recipient,</u> and to ~~generate recipient's encryption information~~[[,]] ~~and transmits~~ <u>transmit</u> the recipient's encryption information to the sender's terminal apparatus;

wherein the sender's terminal apparatus <u>is configured to receive and provide</u> ~~outputs~~ the ~~transmitted~~ recipient's encryption information ~~in order to be attached to a delivery~~ <u>as part of a tangible encrypted medium carrying or storing the recipient's encryption information that the sender includes with the tangible</u> item ~~entrusted~~ <u>and forwards</u> to the delivery agency; and

wherein the delivery ~~agency's~~ <u>agency has a</u> cryptogram reader ~~decrypts~~ <u>configured to read and decrypt</u> the ~~output~~ <u>tangible encrypted medium carrying or storing the</u> recipient's encryption information using ~~the delivery agency's~~ <u>a</u> secret key <u>known only to the delivery agency</u> so that the delivery agency obtains the ~~recipient~~ <u>private</u> information <u>from the decrypted tangible encrypted medium to enable the tangible item to be delivered to the recipient.</u>

2. (Currently Amended) The item delivery system according to claim 1, wherein the recipient's terminal apparatus ~~attaches~~ is further configured to include information about the delivery agency's public key ~~to~~ with the recipient's encryption information ~~and transmits it~~ being transmitted to the sender's terminal apparatus.

3. (Currently Amended) The item delivery system according to claim 1,

wherein the sender's terminal apparatus is configured to obtain ~~obtains~~ a public key [[of]] from the delivery agency via a specified medium, ~~uses~~ to use the public key obtained to encrypt sender information so as to provide ~~about a sender to generate~~ sender's encryption information[[,]] ~~and outputs the sender's encryption information to be attached to a delivery~~ that is included with the tangible item ~~entrusted~~ forwarded to the delivery agency by the sender; and

wherein the ~~delivery agency's~~ cryptogram reader is further configured to read and decrypt ~~decrypts~~ the output sender's encryption information using ~~the delivery agency's~~ a secret key known only to the delivery agency so that the delivery agency obtains the sender information.

4. (Original) The item delivery system according to claim 1, wherein the recipient's encryption information contains at least coded information.

5. (Currently Amended) The item delivery system according to claim 1, wherein ~~an output of~~ the recipient's encryption information contains at least a name identifying the recipient.

6. (Currently Amended) A delivery agency server apparatus of a delivery agency which delivers a ~~delivery~~ tangible item ~~entrusted~~ sent to it by a sender to a recipient, wherein a public switched telephone network is used to make a communication connection between a sender's terminal apparatus of the sender ~~entrusting delivery of the delivery item to the delivery agency~~ and a recipient's terminal apparatus of the recipient ~~receiving the delivery item, and~~ the delivery agent server apparatus comprises:

a public key management means for managing a public key to execute an encryption program which encrypts recipient information containing at least ~~recipient's~~ private information needed for delivery of ~~delivery~~ tangible items to the recipient;

a public key transmission means for transmitting the public key to the recipient's terminal apparatus in response to a request from the recipient's terminal apparatus;

a secret key management means for managing a secret key to decrypt recipient's encryption information encrypted ~~and generated~~ by the encryption program using the public key ~~from recipient information containing~~ for obtaining at least recipient's private information needed for delivery of ~~delivery~~ tangible items forwarded to the delivery agency by the sender along with a tangible encrypted medium carrying or storing the recipient's encryption information; and

a secret key provision means for providing the secret key to a cryptogram reader ~~which decrypts~~ configured to read and decrypt the tangible encrypted medium carrying or storing the recipient's encryption information to obtain the private information needed for delivering tangible items to the recipient.

7. (Currently Amended) The delivery agent server apparatus according to claim 6,

wherein the public key transmission means ~~can transmit~~ also transmits the public key to the sender's terminal apparatus in response to a request from the sender's terminal apparatus;

wherein ~~the~~ a sender encryption program ~~can use~~ uses the public key to encrypt sender information about the sender ~~and~~ to generate sender's encryption information forwarded to the delivery agency by the sender along with the tangible encrypted medium carrying or storing the recipient's encryption information and the tangible item; and

wherein the secret key ~~can decrypt~~ also reads and decrypts the sender's encryption information.

8. (Currently Amended) The item delivery system according to claim 6, wherein ~~an output of~~ the recipient's encryption information contains at least a name identifying the recipient.

9. (Currently Amended) A cryptogram reader connectable to a delivery agency server apparatus of a delivery agency which delivers a ~~delivery~~ tangible item ~~entrusted~~ to a recipient that has been forwarded to the delivery agency by a sender along with a tangible encrypted medium carrying or storing encrypted information needed to deliver the tangible item to the [[a]] recipient, wherein a public switched telephone network is used to make a communication connection between a sender's terminal apparatus of the sender ~~entrusting delivery of the delivery item to the delivery agency~~ and a recipient's terminal apparatus of the recipient ~~receiving the delivery item, and~~ the cryptogram reader comprises:

a means for obtaining a secret key from [[a]] the delivery agency server apparatus in order to decrypt ~~recipient's encryption~~ the encrypted information needed to deliver the tangible item to the recipient ~~encrypted and generated~~ from the encrypted medium forwarded

to the delivery agency by the sender along with the tangible item, the recipient's encrypted

information including ~~at least recipient information needed for delivery of delivery items by~~

~~means of an encryption program using a public key of the delivery agency~~;

a means for reading the ~~recipient's encryption~~ encrypted information needed to

deliver the tangible item to the recipient ~~encrypted and generated~~ from the encrypted medium

and for decrypting it using the secret key; and

a means for outputting the decrypted ~~recipient's encryption~~ information needed to

deliver the tangible item to the recipient as human-readable recipient information.

10. (Currently Amended) The cryptogram reader according to claim 9,

wherein the cryptogram reader ~~can decrypt~~ also decrypts sender's ~~encryption~~

encrypted information ~~as~~ to provide sender's private information encrypted by ~~the~~ a sender

encryption program using the public key; and

wherein the cryptogram reader ~~can output~~ also outputs the ~~encrypted~~ decrypted

sender's ~~encryption~~ private information as human-readable sender information.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ A tangible item delivery method, comprising: ~~in which~~

providing a public ~~switched telephone network~~ communication ~~is used to make~~

connection between a sender's terminal apparatus of a sender ~~entrusting delivery~~ of [[a]] the

tangible ~~delivery~~ item to a ~~delivery agency and a~~ recipient's terminal apparatus of a recipient

~~receiving~~ intended to receive the ~~delivery~~ tangible item[[,]] ~~the method comprising:~~;

~~a step wherein~~ using the recipient's terminal apparatus ~~obtains~~ to obtain a public key

~~of the~~ from a delivery agency ~~via a specified medium~~[[,]];

~~uses~~ using the obtained public key to encrypt recipient information containing at least ~~recipient's~~ private information needed for delivery of ~~items~~ the tangible item to the recipient ~~and to generate~~ as recipient's encryption information[[,]];

~~and transmits~~ transmitting the recipient's encryption information to the sender's terminal apparatus;

~~a step wherein~~ receiving the transmitted recipient's encrypted information at the sender's terminal apparatus; ~~outputs~~

providing the received ~~the transmitted~~ recipient's encryption information ~~in order to be attached to a~~ as a tangible encrypted medium carrying or storing the recipient's encryption information;

including the tangible encrypted medium carrying or storing the recipient's encryption information with the tangible ~~delivery~~ item ~~entrusted~~ and forwarding both to the delivery agency; and

~~a step wherein the delivery agency's cryptogram reader decrypts~~ decrypting the ~~output~~ recipient's ~~encryption~~ encrypted information from the tangible encrypted medium forwarded to the delivery agency with the tangible item using ~~the delivery agency's~~ a secret key known only to the delivery agency so that the delivery agency obtains the ~~recipient~~ private information needed for delivery of the tangible item to the recipient.

12. (Currently Amended): The item delivery method according to claim 11, further comprising ~~a step wherein the recipient's terminal apparatus attaches~~ including information about the ~~delivery agency's~~ public key ~~to~~ with the recipient's encryption information and ~~transmits it~~ transmitting both to the sender's terminal apparatus.

13. (Currently Amended): The item delivery method according to claim 11, further comprising:

~~a step wherein~~ obtaining a public key using the sender's terminal apparatus ~~obtains a public key of the delivery agency from the delivery agency server apparatus or via a specified medium~~[[,]];

~~uses~~ using the obtained public key to encrypt sender information about [[a]] the sender ~~to generate~~ as sender's encryption information[[,]] ~~and outputs~~

outputting the sender's encryption information ~~to be attached to a delivery~~ in a form that can be included with the tangible encrypted medium and tangible item ~~entrusted~~ forwarded to the delivery agency; and

~~a step wherein the delivery agency's cryptogram reader decrypts~~ decrypting the output sender's encryption information using the ~~delivery agency's~~ secret key known only to the delivery agency so that the delivery agency obtains the sender information.

14. (Original): The item delivery method according to claim 11, wherein the recipient's encryption information comprises at least coded information.

15. (Currently Amended): The item delivery method according to claim 11, wherein ~~an output of~~ the recipient's encryption information contains at least a name identifying the recipient.

16. (Canceled).

17. (Currently Amended): A computer-readable tangible storage medium ~~recording~~ carrying a program for a computer of a delivery agency which delivers a ~~delivery~~ tangible

item ~~entrusted~~ sent to it by a sender to a recipient, wherein a public switched telephone network is used to make <u>a communication</u> connection between a sender's terminal apparatus of the sender ~~entrusting delivery of the delivery item to the delivery agency~~ and a recipient's terminal apparatus of the recipient ~~receiving the delivery item, and~~ the program allows the computer to function as:

a public key management means for managing a public key to execute an encryption program which encrypts recipient information containing at least ~~recipient's~~ private information needed for delivery of ~~delivery~~ <u>tangible</u> items <u>to the recipient</u>;

a public key transmission means for transmitting the public key to the recipient's terminal apparatus in response to a request from the recipient's terminal apparatus;

a secret key management means for managing a secret key to decrypt recipient's encryption information encrypted ~~and generated~~ by the encryption program using the public key ~~from recipient information containing~~ <u>for obtaining</u> at least recipient's private information needed for delivery of ~~delivery~~ <u>tangible</u> items <u>forwarded to the delivery agency by the sender along with a tangible encrypted medium carrying or storing the recipient's encryption information</u>; and

a secret key provision means for providing the secret key to a cryptogram reader ~~which decrypts~~ <u>configured to read and decrypt the tangible encrypted medium carrying or storing</u> the recipient's encryption information <u>to obtain the private information needed for delivering tangible items to the recipient</u>.